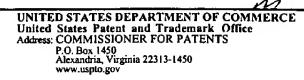


United States Patent and Trademark Office



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR 29757/P-275 3232 09/777,433 02/06/2001 Joseph E. Kaminkow **EXAMINER** 4743 04/01/2004 7590 MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP WHITE, CARMEN D 6300 SEARS TOWER **ART UNIT** PAPER NUMBER 233 S. WACKER DRIVE CHICAGO, IL 60606 3714 20

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The reply filed on 11 November 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): The reply failed to present arguments pointing out specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over the applied references. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

While Applicant has presented arguments, they do not point out specific distinctions between the new claims and the prior art. Applicant must specifically point out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the prior art. In order to best accomplish this, Applicant should mark the claims to show the differences between the original claims and the amended claims (i.e., using brackets and underlining) and point out how these changes distinguish over the prior art.

Since the above-mentioned amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.



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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (703) 305-3319. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on (703) 308-1806. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BOO

JESSICA HARRISON PRIMARY EXAMINER